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CERAMIC HANDLE STYLES AND CULTURAL VARIATION
IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF
THE MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY

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Gerald P. Smith

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CERAMIC HANDLE STYLES AND CULTURAL VARIATION IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY

Introduction

There has been speculation about the possibility of a sequence of handle forms on Mississippian Period ceramics of the Central Mississippi Valley, progressing from purely utilitarian to vestigial forms. The purpose of this study was to determine whether such a sequence does occur, and if so, what significance it might have in delineating cultural change and local variation in this area. In 1940-1947 an archaeological survey of the lower Mississippi Valley was made by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin. Their report (hereafter referred to as the Survey report) mentions the possibility of such a sequence and sets up a tentative typology of handles. They comment that "we may set up a tentative sequence of loop-strap-decorative as something to check in future excavations and comparisons." (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951: 152)

This study is primarily concerned with the Chucalissa site. The Mississippian occupation here dates from about A.D. 900-1600. An earlier Baytown component is present but not considered here. The town was built around a plaza, with a medium-sized temple mound on the north side of the plaza; a second mound on the west side has been seriously damaged by cultivation. The village deposit averages about four feet in depth; Stratum I is a brownish midden deposit averaging about 2.5 feet deep and Stratum III is a much darker midden layer averaging about 1.5 feet in depth lying immediately on the subsoil and below Stratum I. Stratum II is a relatively

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sterile aboriginal earth fill appearing between Strata I and III in some portions of the site. Stratum I corresponds to the Walls component on the site and Stratum III to an as yet undefined Middle Mississippian phase.

After removal of the plow zone, excavation in the midden areas has proceeded by 0.5-foot levels except for special treatment of such features as structures, pits, and burials. For the purposes of this study Stratum I was subdivided into Zone A (levels 1-3) and Zone B (levels 4-5). Plow zone specimens more than ten feet from the crest of a slope were considered as from Zone A, but the remainder were disregarded in the stratigraphic analysis. Specimens from mortuary vessels were considered as from the same level as the top of the burial pit.

The Chucalissa collection of ceramic handles at the time of analysis consisted of only 168 specimens, 107 with sufficient documentation to provide the basis for a sequential analysis based on stratigraphy. The bulk of the specimens in the Survey collection were from surface collections, hence no stratigraphic analysis dealing with handles could be presented. The handles in the Chucalissa collection were divided into three stylistic series; the Loopform, Decorative, and the Lugform series. The lugs could not be used in this analysis because of insufficient numbers with provenience data. Stylistic and stratigraphic evidence provided the basis for a refinement of the established typology and were basic to the sequential analysis.

The original study presented here was done as an honors project in 1962-63 while the author was an undergraduate at Southwestern at Memphis. More field data for the region are now available and more refined data

are now available from Chucalissa itself. While I have tried to consider pertinent new material, the intervening years of graduate study have prevented inclusion of recent Chucalissa data. I wish to thank Jack R. Conrad and the late Charles H. Nash for their criticisms of the paper as originally written. Carl H. Chapman and Charles H. McNutt read revised versions of the paper and offered both criticism and bits of unpublished data which were of particular help in refining the analysis.

THE CHUCALISSA HANDLE SEQUENCE

Loopform Series

The Loopform series covers the total Mississippian time-span at Chucalissa and its members represent the dominant element of the Chucalissa handle complex. Included in the Loopform series are the Loop, Wide Loop, Narrow Strap, and Triangular Strap types. The Broad Strap occurs rarely at Chucalissa and is also included in the series but cannot yet be assigned a definite chronological position.

Extant stratigraphic data indicate that these types fall into a distinct, but somewhat overlapping temporal series in the above sequence. They represent a progressive stylization which appears to correlate with the stratigraphic sequence. The earlier types are relatively simple, while later types become progressively more ornate. Secondary decoration does not definitely appear until Stratum I, Zone B, and is not dominant until Stratum I, Zone A was deposited. The earliest forms of decoration are chiefly large nodes placed at various points on the handles. Later a wide variety of decorative modes are employed, and by the latest times the large nodes have dropped out to be replaced by incising, punctating, bar applique, and the fine noding characteristic of Fortune Noded at Chucalissa.

The earliest of the Loopform series are characterized by a rivet form of attachment to the vessel wall at the lower end. Luting replaces riveting in Stratum I, Zone B. This is in contrast to the Lawhorn site in the northeast corner of Arkansas, where riveting remains a standard method of attachment throughout the Loopform series (Moselage 1962: 27,

Fig. 8). Another point in common throughout both the Loopform and Decorative series at Chucalissa is the exclusive use of Neeley's Ferry paste; Bell paste is used here in bowls and some water bottles but not in jars.

1. Round Loop Handle (Plate I a,b)

The Round Loop Handle is the basic type of the Loopform series and is perhaps the most widespread geographically. Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951: 150) note that some in their collection were riveted at the lower end and suggest that some with the upper end below the lip plane may have been riveted at the upper end as well.

In the Chucalissa collection all the Loop Handles are placed vertically and all show evidence of riveting only at the lower end. The upper end of the Chucalissa loops is at the lip plane in all specimens and the handles themselves tend to be larger than those of the Survey collection: vertically they average 3.5 cm. (range 2.5-4.6 cm.) vs. 2.3 cm. (range 2.0-4.0 cm.); in diameter, 1.4 cm. (range 1.1-1.6 cm.) vs. 1.1 cm. (range 0.7-1.4 cm.). Of the five loops in this collection all had stratigraphic data and were from Stratum III. In terms of stylistic development the Round Loop is the earliest of the Loopform handles at the site.

2. Wide Loop Handle (Plate I c,d,e)

This type is listed in the Survey report as "intermediate." (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951: 150) Of the Wide Loop Handles at Chucalissa all have their upper end attachment at the lip plane and show evidence of riveting at the lower end. All the Chucalissa Wide

Loop Handles are plain. There are thirteen Wide Loop specimens in the Chucalissa collection, six with stratigraphic data: four from Stratum II and two from Stratum I, Zone B. In size, the Wide Loops average 3.4 cm. (range 2.2-4.3 cm.) vertically; 1.8 cm. (range 1.0-2.4 cm.) in width; and 0.8 cm. (range 0.5-1.0) in thickness.

One of the Wide Loop specimens was on a complete Barton Incised Jar found with Burial 44 in Unit 3. This burial was in a shallow pit which originated just below the floor of House 12 (Stratum III) and was Carbon-14 dated at 1070 A.D. \pm 200 (University of Michigan M583). Another is decorated with a node at each end, but lacks stratigraphic data.

Stylistically the Wide Loop is slightly later than the Loop, and is here considered a development from this type. The stratigraphic evidence presently available indicates that the Wide Loop continued in use to a later period than the Loop Handle.

3. Narrow Strap Handle (Plate III a,b,c)

This type is occasionally described as one of the two variants of the strap classification, but is here considered as a separate stylistic configuration. In the Chucalissa collection there are thirty-four specimens of this type, twenty with stratigraphic data. This data indicate that the Narrow Strap is later, at least in popularity, than the Loop and Wide Loop, and appears before the Triangular Strap.

The Narrow Strap can be considered as an intermediate form between the Wide Loop and the Triangular Strap. Those from Stratum III are all plain and very closely resemble the Wide Loops in size and thickness.

Many from the upper levels were separated from the Triangular Straps only by an arbitrary decision to consider any strap handle with a taper of less than 0.5 cm. as a Narrow Strap rather than a Triangular Strap. Only 41% of the Narrow Strap handles had secondary decoration, while 87% of the Triangular Strap handles were decorated. These percentages suggest that the Survey statement that "Strap handles offer a fairly large surface for decoration, but it is seldom utilized" (Phillips, Ford and Griffin 1951: 150) does not hold at Chucalissa. Stratigraphically the decoration occurrence for the Narrow Strap at Chucalissa is as follows:

Stratum-Zone	Plain	Decorated	Indeterminate
IA	4	6	1
IB	5	1	0
III	3	0	0

In view of this stratigraphic distribution and the Survey statement, it may be that this increase in the use of secondary decoration is a local phenomenon in relation to the general Mississippian developmental pattern.

In size this type averages 4.0 cm. (range 1.4-6.0 cm.) vertically, and 2.9 cm. (range 0.9-5.3 cm.) in width. These averages were calculated from the nineteen specimens in the collection on which both loop (upper edge of juncture with the vessel to lower edge) and width measurements could be made. No size comparison can be made for this type with other collections as the strap handles used in the Survey size calculations were not differentiated as to variant and measurements are not available for other specimens.

4. Broad Strap Handle (Plate II)

There are only three specimens of this type in the Chucalissa collection, so they were omitted from the graphs, and little can be said of them at the present time. They have parallel sides but greater width than loop, so are here considered Broad Strap handles. Of those so considered only one conforms to the Survey criterion of a width approximately twice the loop.

The vessel illustrated in Plate II was with Burial 35 from Stratum I, Zone A, thus suggesting that this exaggerated parallel-sided strap handle style is late in the Chucalissa sequence.

5. Triangular Strap Handle (Plate III d,e,f,g, and Plate IV b)

The Triangular Strap is often considered as a variant within the general strap handle category. Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951: 150) suggest that this style is later than the Narrow Strap, by appeal to handle forms in the Madisonville Focus. Of the fifty-three Triangular Straps in the Chucalissa collection, thirty-two have stratigraphic data: twenty-one are from Stratum I, Zone A and eleven are from Stratum I, Zone B.

The size of the Triangular Straps in the Chucalissa collection was calculated from the twenty-seven specimens on which all the measurements could be taken. They were found to average 4.3 cm. (range 2.4-7.3 cm.) vertically, 4.4 cm. (range 2.1-9.1 cm.) in width at the upper end, and 2.6 cm. (41%) in taper to the lower end width. "Taper to lower end width" is here considered as the difference between the widths at the upper and lower ends. Percentagewise it is considered as percentage of upper end width.

Stylistically indicative that the Triangular Strap is a development from the Narrow Strap is the fact that in some cases an arbitrary division, as previously mentioned, had to be made. Also indicative of this position is the fact that the Triangular Strap handles include decorative modes which are otherwise restricted to the Decorative Series handles. It is also on this type that the 45° lip bevel, considered a late development in Mississippian ceramics of the Alluvial Valley, first appears in this series, occurring on five specimens. Stratigraphic and stylistic data thus offer strong indication that the Triangular Strap began later than the Narrow Strap.

Decorative Series

This series occurs at Chucalissa only in the late period represented by Stratum I, Zone A. Field data for the present collection are sufficiently refined only to postulate a slightly earlier origin for the Arcaded type than for the remaining types in this series. Included are the Arcaded, Arcaded Applique, Vertical-Linear Applique, and the Arcaded-Zoned Punctated type.

Although it has utilitarian potential, the Arcaded handle is included in this series because at Chucalissa its occurrence is normally restricted to mortuary ceramics, on Rhodes Incised or Kent Incised vessels. The Vertical-Linear Applique and Arcaded-Zoned Punctate also seem to be of ceremonial usage, the former occurring with a burial and in the plow zone on the top of the temple mound. Whether this differential distribution is a reflection of true ceremonial formalization or the result of less erosion on the temple mound due to delayed clearing of the mound is as yet problematical.

1. Arcaded Handle (Plate IV a and Plate V a,b,c,d)

The Arcaded type is apparently one of those included in the Decorative classification of the Survey report. The Arcaded handle is here considered as composed of small tapered strap handles interconnected at their upper ends, these elements forming a collar around the neck of the vessel. There were six specimens complete enough to permit measurement of their elements. They averaged 3.4 cm. (range 1.6-4.9 cm.) vertically; 3.5 cm. (range 2.2-6.1 cm.) in width at the upper end, and 2.4 cm. (69%) in taper to the lower end width. Width at the upper end was measured

from midpoint to midpoint of the connections.

There are nine specimens of this type in the Chucalissa collection, six of them with stratigraphic data. All of those with stratigraphic data are from Stratum I, Zone A, three from the lower portion of this zone. This suggests that the Arcaded handle came into use later than the previously discussed types and slightly earlier than the other Decorative types, although the small size of the sample precludes definite resolution of this point.

Stylistically it is a development from the Triangular Strap, the taper being more pronounced. The variety of decorative modes is greatly attenuated, although the small size of the present sample may make this attribute more apparent than real. Further evidence in support of a late development may be the greater occurrence of the 45° lip bevel in the Arcaded type (seven of the nine specimens vs. five of fifty-three in the Triangular Strap), although this trait could also be linked with the apparent refinement of the vessels involved for ceremonial usage.

There are three forms of connection used on these handles, the horizontal bar, the inverted "U," and the inverted "V." Of these there are five inverted "U" connections, two inverted "V" connections, and one horizontal bar connection.

The inverted "U" connection is a simple arc formed between the handle elements by a continuation of the curve of the elements having concave sides. The inverted "V" connection is a sharp angle, opening downward, formed by the intersection of the sides of elements having relatively straight sides. The horizontal connection is a simple applique bar connecting the upper ends of the elements and passing just below the

vessel lip. In general the same type of connection is used for all the handle elements of a particular vessel with the Arcaded handle type or one of its derivatives.

2. Arcaded Applique Handle (Plate V e,f,g,h,k)

The Arcaded Applique is the most common of the Decorative types at Chucalissa. Of the thirty-three specimens in the collection, the twenty-five with stratigraphic data are from Stratum I, Zone A. It is also the member of the Decorative series most closely related to the Arcaded type, being simply the arcaded collar reproduced in applique.

Secondary decoration found on this type covers the full range of modes present on the Arcaded handles and includes others absent on the Arcaded but present on the Triangular Strap handles. Perhaps the most significant mode in terms of further stylistic development is the use of a vertical applique strip which extends well below the lower end of the triangular-applique unit. This mode appears to be related to the Vertical-Linear Applique handle type and may be ancestral to it. Of the thirty-three specimens with the Arcaded Applique handle, 70% (twenty-three) have the 45° lip bevel. The ten specimens that permit complete measurement average 2.5 cm. (range 1.4-3.3 cm.) vertically; 2.8 cm. (range 2.1-3.6 cm.) in width at the upper end; and 2.1 cm. (75%) in taper to lower end width. Upper end width was calculated as for the Arcaded type.

3. Vertical-Linear Applique Handle (Plate V l,m)

The Vertical-Linear Applique is a minority type in the Chucalissa collection. Of the eight specimens, the six with stratigraphic data are

from Stratum I, Zone A. These handles are simply a closely spaced series of vertically aligned strips or cylindrical segments of clay applied to the neck of the vessel just below the lip. Half of the specimens in this collection have the individual elements connected at the upper end in a manner quite similar to that used in the Arcaded and Arcaded Applique handles, while the remaining specimens lack interconnection.

All the Vertical-Linear Applique handle sherds have the 45° lip bevel, while two of the Arcaded Applique handle sherds with the vertical applique strip as secondary decoration lack this feature. If the use of the 45° lip bevel proves to increase through time in the Walls-Pecan Point Focus and its differential occurrence continues, this may support the postulated development of the Vertical-Linear Applique type from the variant of the Arcaded Applique. The Vertical-Linear Applique handle is often included with Vernon-Paul Applique or with Campbell Applique. Indicative that this is a handle type is the fact that vessels with Vernon-Paul Applique body decoration rarely have this type of handle, although other types of handles are commonly used on them. It appears in the proper handle position on vessels of other types in the Chucalissa collection. Only in the case of Campbell Applique on water bottle necks does it seem advisable to class this type as simply a decorative motif.

The four specimens permitting complete measurements average in size 2.4 cm. (range 2.1-3.0 cm.) vertically, and 0.7 cm. (range 0.6-0.7 cm.) in width, there being little or no taper in most instances.

4. Arcaded-Zoned Punctate Handle (Plate V i,j)

The Arcaded-Zoned Punctate type is very similar to Manley Punctate,

but is confined to the neck of the vessel, as are the other Loopform and Decorative handles, rather than to the vessel body as is Manley Punctate. There are no photographs showing this handle type in the Survey report, but the comment that "in a number of cases this arcaded collar is merely simulated by incised lines" (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951: 151) is probably an allusion to it.

Both Parkin punctating and Owens punctating are represented on this type. All specimens have the 45° lip bevel, possibly an indication of this being one of the latest handle types on the site.

There are only eight specimens of this type in the Chucalissa collection, all from the plow zone. Of these, seven are from the top of the temple mound, an indication of possible restriction to ceremonial usage.

Socio-Religious Context of Chucalissa Handles

The community plan at Chucalissa is focussed on a central plaza, with a temple mound on the north side as a focal point for religious activity. Around the plaza is a low ridge, now about 40-60 feet wide, which seems to have been the residence area for high-status individuals and their families. Burials in this area tend to cluster around the houses, which continued to be rebuilt at approximately the same spot each time. Most of these burials have high-quality vessels associated with them, often as bottle-and-bowl or jar sets.

The remaining site area seems to have been occupied by lower status families. Houses and burials here also tend to cluster at stabilized points, but grave goods rarely occur with these burials.

The ordinary utilitarian jar with Burial 44 of Unit 3 and the late development of the Decorative Series handles suggest that the development of the Decorative Series handles may be connected as much with increasing social status differentiation as with religious formalization. Such a pattern may be reflected in the increasing elaboration of the vessels present in the circum-plaza burials. Secondary specialization of context within the Decorative Series is suggested by the restriction of most of the Arcaded-Zoned Punctate handles to the top of the temple mound, presumably a focus of religious ceremony.

HANDLES AT OTHER SITES IN THE AREA

Banks

The Banks site on Wapanocca Lake in Crittenden County, Arkansas is clearly distinct from its Nodena, Walls, and St. Francis neighbors. The site has a plaza but no associated mounds. Burial customs were relatively standardized, but do not seem to have involved the manufacture of special mortuary vessels with decorative, non-functional handles. Burial methods utilizing what amount of miniature log tombs suggest a holdover from Baytown, but the rest of the complex argues conclusively in favor of the reliability of the radiocarbon date of 1535 ± 150 A.D. The vessels illustrated by Perino (1966) show predominant usage of the Narrow Strap handle and occasional use of Wide Loop handles. A few handles with node decoration and one with Parkin punctating appear, but there seems to be no tendency toward arcading or purely decorative use of handles. Vessels which could reasonably be considered as special funerary items are effigies and painted or engraved water bottles and jars.

Lawhorn

While apparently well excavated, Lawhorn still presents an enigma as now published. Judging from the report (Moselage 1962), there are at least three components (Barnes, middle Mississippian, and late Mississippian) and possibly more. The middle Mississippian component is characterized by Barton Incised Jars, loop handles and narrow strap handles, and possibly rectangular houses. Houses one and two, both about ten by fifteen feet, seem to belong to this component. House one has a radiocarbon date of 1210 ± 150 A.D. (Moselage 1962: 94) and is

built on subsoil; House two is built on subsoil and lies about 0.5 feet (Moselage 1962: Fig. 33) under House three. This occupation probably dates some time in the period 1100-1300 A.D.

The late Mississippian component includes such items as Wallace Incised, Old Town Red, Carson Red-on-Buff, and Nodena Red and White pottery types; plates; carinated water bottles; and possibly squared houses. House three, thirteen by fifteen feet, has a radiocarbon date of 1585 ± 150 A.D. (Moselage 1962: 94) and would be included in this component. A dating late in the period 1500-1600 A.D. seems reasonable for this component. If the hewn log from House three (Moselage 1962: 73 and Fig. 38) was cut with an iron tool such as a saw, an even later date would be likely.

The handles from Lawhorn are mostly rather crude parallel-sided strap handles. Forms involved include those with ridged edges, two or three strips running obliquely down the vessel shoulder from the handle base, and some with vertical incised lines. These modes are rare or absent at Chucalissa, but fairly common in early components farther north. These are on Neeley's Ferry Plain and Barton Incised jars at Lawhorn and thus should go with the middle Mississippian component here. Indeed the range of handle forms at Lawhorn is duplicated at Kincaid, with the exception that the applique shoulder strips associated with some Lawhorn handles do not appear at Kincaid (Cole 1951: 322-328). None of the forms distinctive of Lawhorn appear at Chucalissa. This situation may result from lack of contact between these communities or, perhaps more likely, a time gap in the occupation of the Chucalissa sectors so far excavated.

Campbell Site, 23PM5

The Campbell site is a late Mississippian village site in Pemiscott, County, Missouri, covering about 40 acres and including a plaza and a small temple mound. Two small cemetery areas have been excavated and others are suggested by surface material (Chapman and Anderson 1955: 13). Campbell seems to have been occupied for a rather short period. Occupation into perhaps the mid-seventeenth century is suggested by trade goods. Blue glass barrel beads and possible brass fragments were found during excavations there (Chapman, personal communication).

The ceramic surface collection from the site was gathered with strong preference for rim and decorated sherds, thus limiting its utility for percentage comparisons with unselected samples. A small unselected sample may be formed by combining sherd counts from the pit fills of Burials 10B, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18. This sample is as follows:

Neeley's Ferry Plain	109	61.0%
Bell Plain	48	26.8
Parkin Punctate	9	5.3
Campbell Applique	8	4.3
Ranch Incised	2	1.1
Old Town Red	1	0.6
Kent Incised	<u>1</u>	<u>0.6</u>
	178	99.9%

The predominance of Neeley's Ferry Plain in such a late site may represent a real cultural difference between Nodena and Walls-Pecan Point sites or may simply result from sampling error.

Handles at the Campbell site appear in the report as Campbell Applique, which includes both Arcaded Applique and Vertical-Linear Applique forms. The late dating of the site and its general ceramic resemblances to Chucalissa support the late placement of the applique handles at

Chucalissa. Lack of strap handle forms at Campbell suggests that they were dropped out of the ceramic complex of the area by the early seventeenth century; they are common on earlier sites in the area.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of handles at Chucalissa supports the postulation of a loop-strap-decorative handle development in the area, but as a local Walls-Pecan Point phenomenon. Campbell data suggests that Nodena was also involved, at least on a late time level. The close resemblance between the Campbell and Chucalissa ceramic complexes suggest that Walls-Pecan Point and Nodena are local, late developments out of a common tradition in which most of the trends were already established.

Prominent features of the Loopform sequence are the progressive refinement in design and workmanship devoted to handles and the marked increase in the use of decoration on them. The Decorative handle types clearly developed out of the utilitarian Loopform sequence, but appear at Chucalissa as specialized forms in a ritual context. The appearance of only the decorative forms at Campbell may result from a replacement process not represented at Chucalissa or from a long-standing local difference in cooking procedures. Lack of detailed knowledge of the local development of the Nodena Phase is a distinct handicap here. Data from Lawhorn and early Mississippian sites in Southeast Missouri indicate that participation in the earlier stages of handle elaboration as represented at Chucalissa was rather widespread in the area.

At Banks the process of funerary formalization has apparently occurred, as at the other contemporary sites on or near the main channel of the Mississippi. The details of this formalization are quite distinct from what has been observed at the other sites. Wide contacts and an apparent lack of strong religious elaboration are salient contrasts.

Specialization in mortuary ceramics took place in water bottles rather than jars and is characterized by emphasis on painting rather than incised or applique work. Perino accounts for these distinctions by bringing the occupants of the site in from Middle Tennessee as refugees, but the local sequence in the Banks vicinity is still so poorly known that at this point local development or movement from Southeast Missouri seem just as plausible for now.

Kincaid is also distinct. The handle styles are essentially those of the early stages of development at Chucalissa, but persist with little elaboration at least as late and possibly later than the end of occupation at Chucalissa. The ceramics in general contrast rather sharply in style with those further south on the Mississippi and are rather clearly a part of the Cairo Lowland-Tennessee-Cumberland River tradition. Considerable religious elaboration took place in this area, but associated ceramic elaboration emphasized painted and effigy bottles to the exclusion of jars.

The fact that strap handles continue to increase both numerically and percentagewise at Chucalissa even after the introduction of the Decorative forms serves to emphasize the distinction between domestic and ritual uses of pottery. This proliferation of both utilitarian and domestic styles, rather sharp local variations, and formalization of grave arrangement and community plan can usefully be considered as indicative of a Regional Florescent stage of development (Steward 1955: 203) in the area. Such an interpretation is supported by the accounts of the DeSoto expedition.

A great amount of work remains to be done in the area to determine the details and nature of these local variations. Certainly vessel handles are only a small part of the total picture and the lack of detailed comparative data for even this study has been a major handicap. For those wishing to pursue the study of handles beyond the rather sketchy outline presented here, a prime requirement would be the collection and analysis of more refined stratigraphic and stylistic data throughout the area.

Establishment of local and regional sequences of handle stylistic development and variation should be useful in reaching an understanding of the broader cultural processes occurring in the Mississippi Valley. Of particular pertinence in this regard would be study of the handles in their over-all stylistic and socio-religious contexts. As briefly outlined above, there seem to be quite different stylistic emphases in different sites and phases in the Mississippi Valley which can be correlated with differing emphases in the realms of social and religious organization. How did these contrasts develop, and from what kind of organizational base? What part do such factors as ecological economic specialization and intergroup contacts play in this picture? We don't know, but such an approach might contribute to working out some of the answers.

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TABLE 1

STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF HANDLE

		TYPES AT CHUCALISSA							
STRAT.		LOOP	WIDE LOOP	NARROW STRAP	TRIANGULAR STRAP	ARCADED	ARCADED APPLIQUE	VERTICAL LINEAR APPLIQUE	ARCADED ZONED PUNCTATE
STRAT. IA		0	0	11	21	6	25	6	7
STRAT. IB		0	2	7	11	0	0	0	0
STRAT. III		5	4	2	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF DECORATIVE MODES BY HANDLE TYPES AT CHUCALISSA

	NARROW STRAP		TRIANGULAR STRAP		ARCADED		ARCADED APPLIQUE		ARCADED ZONED PUNCT.		VERTICAL LINEAR APPLIQUE	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
PLAIN	20	56.0	7	14.0	1	11.1	2	6.2			5	62.5
NOTCHED											3	37.5
VERTICAL LINEAR INCISED			3	6.0	2	22.2	2					
SOUTHERN CULT FACE	1	2.9	2	4.0								
OWENS PUNCTATE							1	3.1	1	12.5		
PARKIN PUNCTATE	5	14.7	25	50.0	5	55.5	21	65.1	7	87.5		
FORTUNE NODING			4	8.0	1	11.1	1	3.1				
VERTICAL LINEAR BAR			3	6.0			5	15.5				
EAR NODES	3	8.8										
CENTER NODE	1	2.9	2	4.0								
CORNER AND CENTER NODES	2	5.8										
PARKIN PUNCTATE WITH EAR NODES	2	5.8	3	6.0								
VERTICAL LINEAR INCISED WITH EAR NODES			1	2.0								
TOTALS	34		50		9		32		8		8	

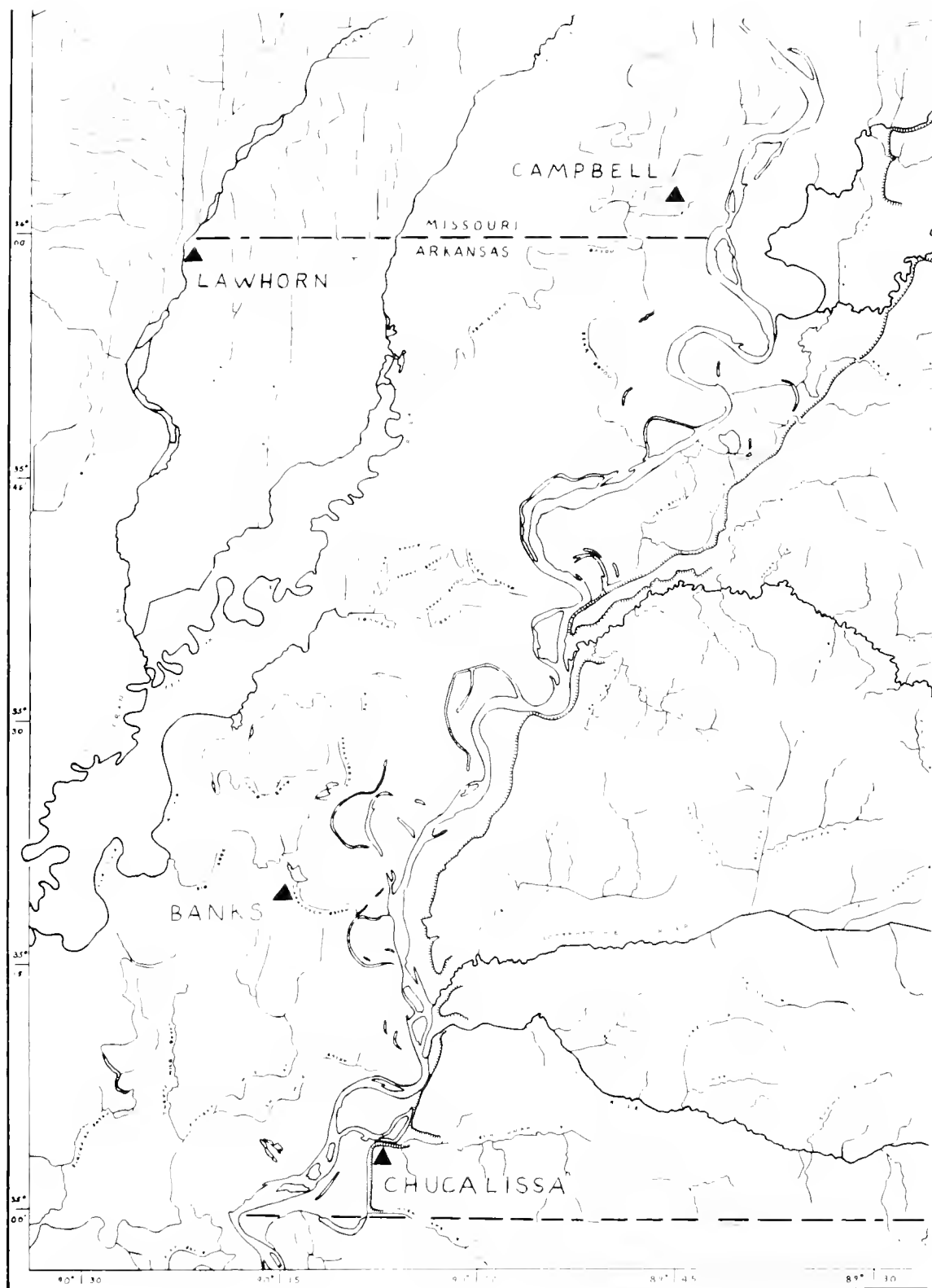


Figure 1. Midsouth sites treated in text

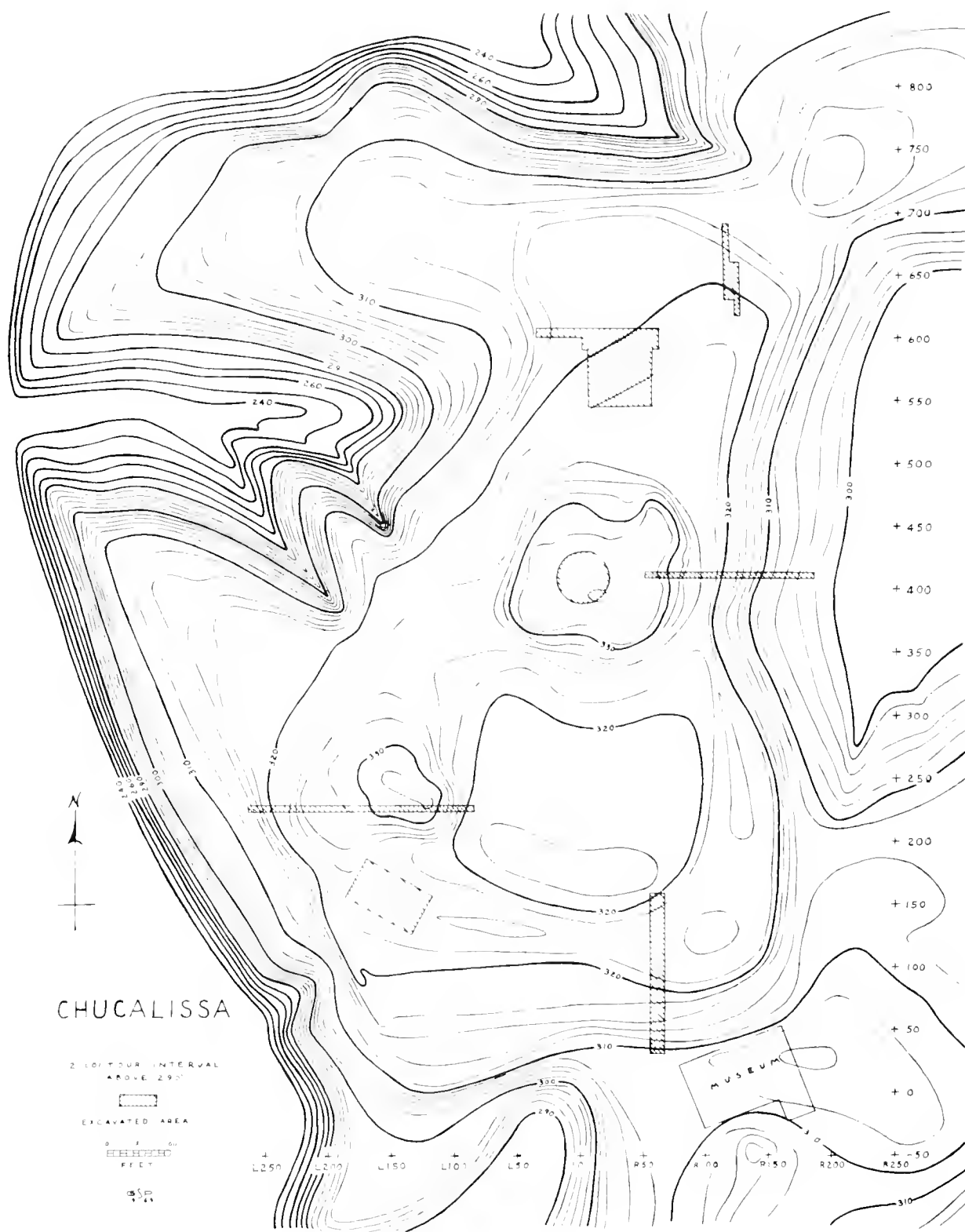


Figure 2.

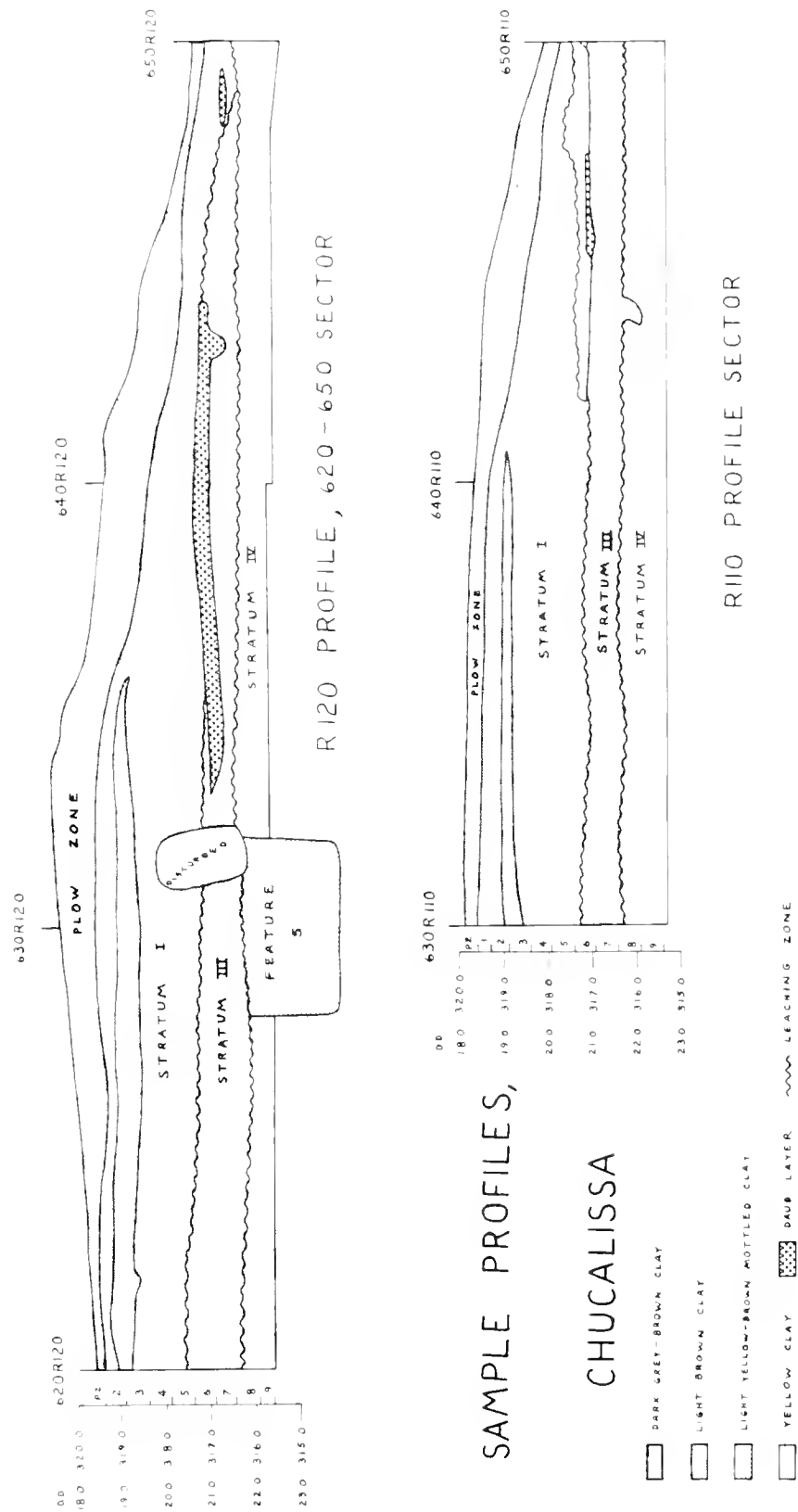
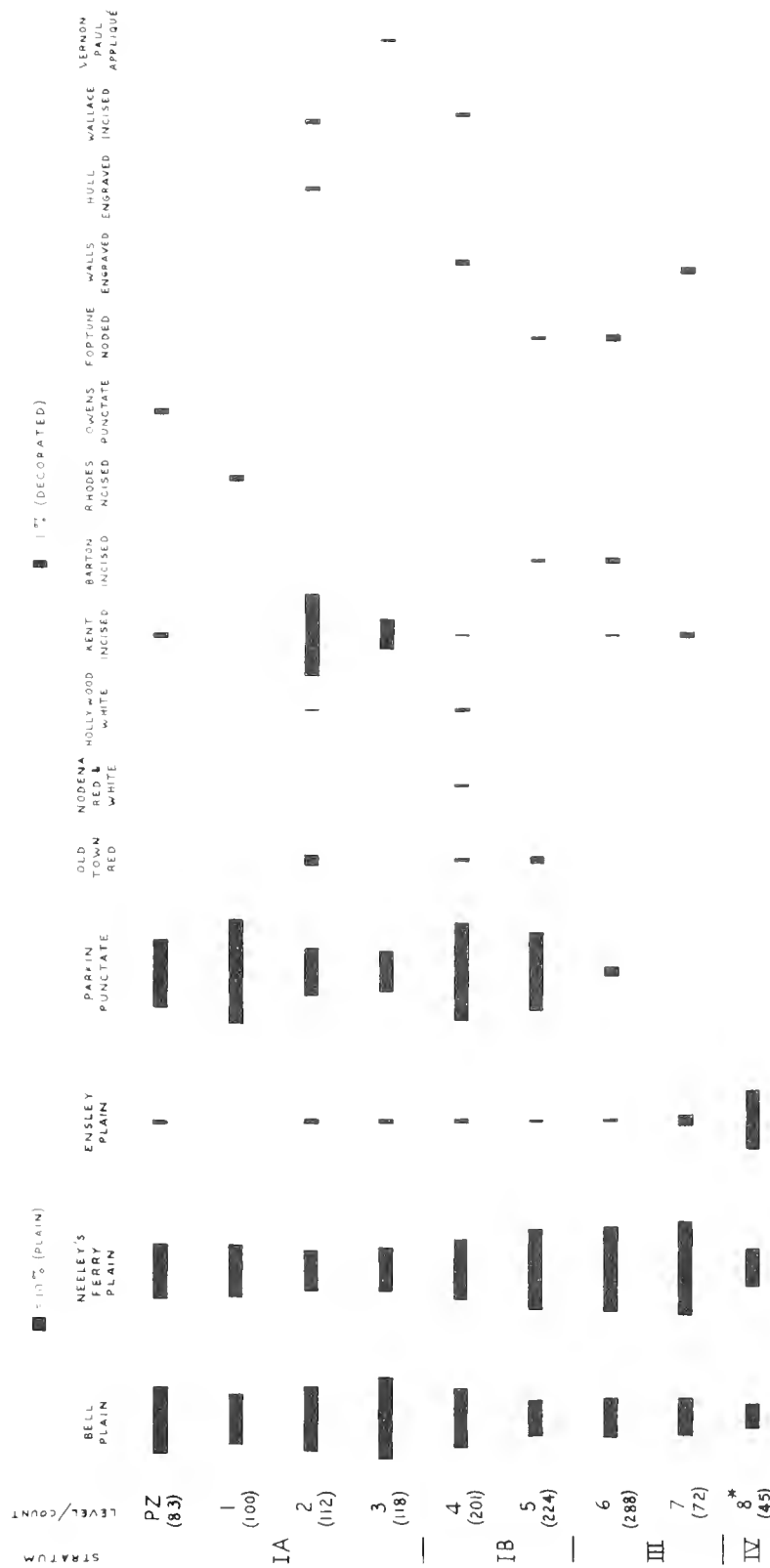


Figure 3.

SERiation GRAPH, CHUCALISSA SQ 630R 110



* INCLUDES LEV 8, 640R 110

Figure 4.

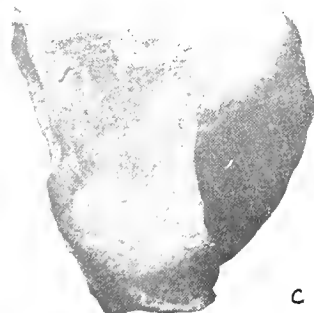
PLATE I



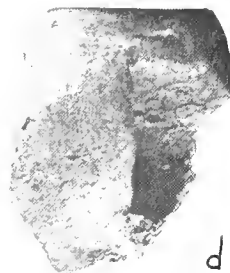
a



b



c



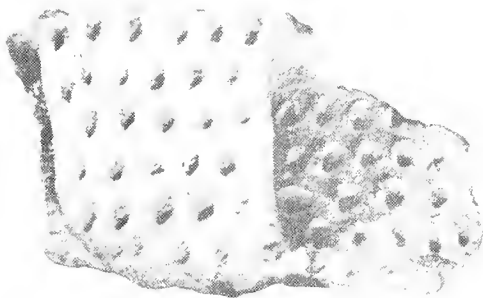
d



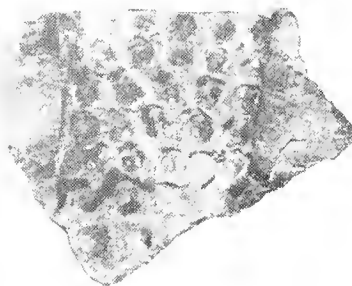
e

cm

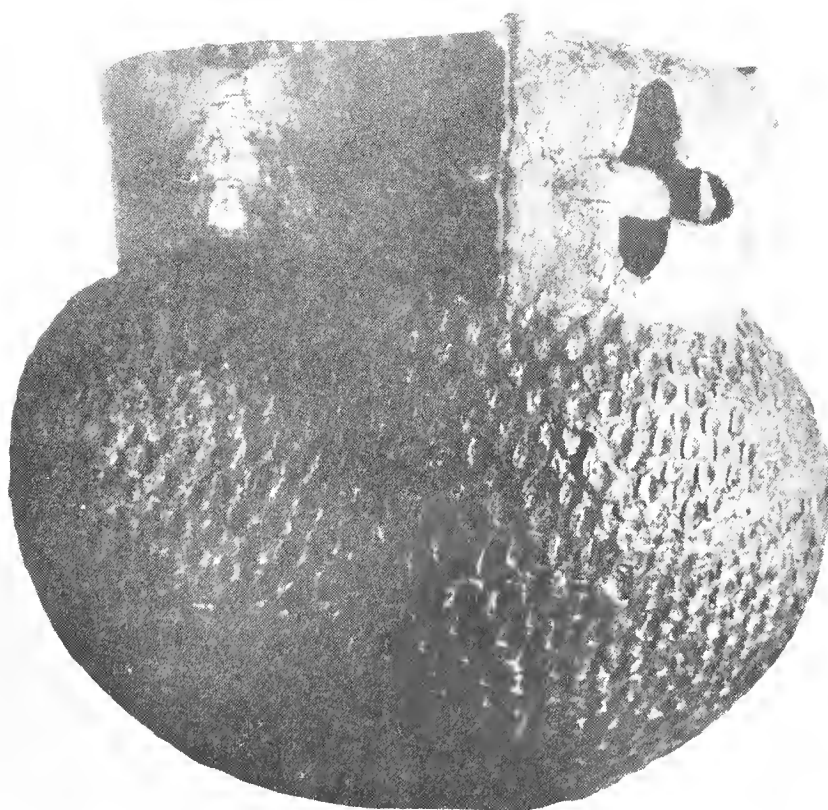
PLATE II



a



b



c



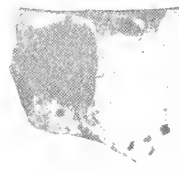
PLATE III



a



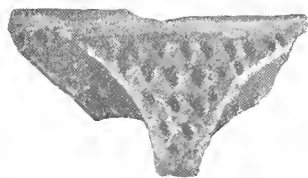
b



c



d



e



f



g



h

PLATE IV



a



b



PLATE V



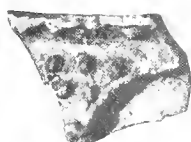
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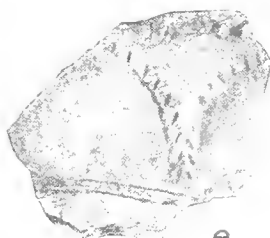
b



c



d



e



f



g



h



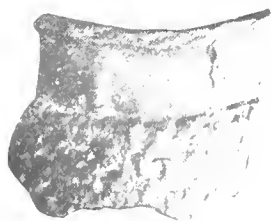
i



j



k



l



m



cm

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